

35 USC 112

Claims 1-15 and 17-20 have been indicated to be rejected under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph.

The proposed amendment to claim 1 has been resubmitted with the missing bracket "]". Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 18 and 19 have been rejected based on the assertion that "refractory carrier" in those claims does not clearly relate to "support" in claim 1. The support is a part of the composition of the material. For example reference is made to the specification at page 19, lines 16-30 which describes support materials which are in particulate form and are part of the composition. The carrier is configured material on which the active composition such as the catalyst material is located. For example reference is made to the specification at page 24, beginning at line 7 which describes carriers. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 18 and 19 under 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 has been amended to more clearly recite the specific embodiment and to remove reference to the "muffler". Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 has been amended to claim a further combination of the converter system with a muffler and a tailpipe. The amendment to claim 3 removes the lack clarity between claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 and 14 have been amended to depend from claim 4. Furthermore, the muffler plates are carrier elements as distinguished from the support. See the above discussion with regard to claims 2, 18 and 19. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 14 under 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 was rejected for reasons similar to claims 2, 18 and 19. See the above discussion with regard to claims 2, 18 and 19. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 14 under 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

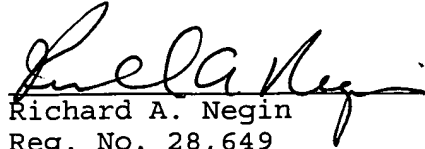
Claim 12 has been amended to correct the dependency, which corrects the rejection based on lack of antecedent basis. With regard to the rejection based on lack of clarity between carrier and support reference is made to the above discussion with regard to claims 2, 18 and 19. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 12 under 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 was rejected for reasons similar to claims 2, 18 and 19. See the above discussion with regard to claims 2, 18 and 19. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC 112 is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments and consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. Applicants have earnestly attempted to comply with the requirements set forth by the Examiner and have amended the application accordingly. Applicants believe that no new issues have been raised and respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections under 35 USC 112 to put the application in condition for appeal based solely on prior art.

If the Examiner disagrees or for any other reasons believes that direct contact with applicant's attorney would help reduce the issues for appeal of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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